



STATEMENT OF AT&T

Regarding Proposed House Bill No. 5572

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING OF ALARM AND SECURITY SYSTEM INSTALLERS

Before the General Law Committee

January 27, 2015

Proposal:

Proposed House Bill No. 5572 would amend the general statutes to require all alarm and security system installers be licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection, by submitting evidence of passage of an educational curriculum or test recognized by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and by submitting to a background check, to be conducted or approved by said department. In addition, it would empower the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to specify training and technical requirements required for such licensure.

Comments:

AT&T respectfully asks the committee to consider the following information when deliberating the content of the bill. Currently, residential alarm installers must be a licensed electrician.

Specifically, Conn. Gen. Stat. §20-334a (i) states:

- (i) The Electrical Work Board shall authorize any person to install, service and repair residential security systems limited to twenty-five volts and five amperes in one to three-family residential dwellings, provided the person is in the employ of an electrical contractor holding an E-1 unlimited contractor license or an L-5 contractor license issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section and the person has successfully completed an apprenticeship and training program established and approved by the Labor Department with the advice of the Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council. Any person authorized to work under this subsection shall not perform telecommunications electrical work, as defined in section 20-340b, with the exception of work involving interface wiring from a residential security system to an existing telephone connection for monitoring purposes. Any person who is authorized to work under this subsection shall, no later than fifteen months after being issued said authorization, secure an L-6 limited electrical journeyman's license pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section.

Although we are not opposed to the requirements as stated in the proposal, we would not like to see duplicative measures set forth by two different agencies, creating an additional cost and administrative burden. Currently, all of our installers have criminal background checks administered as part of the hiring process. We respectfully ask that installers, who currently are licensed through the Electrical Work Board and have had a criminal background check administered, be excluded from a duplicative background check. In addition, HB 5572 refers to submitting evidence of passage of an educational curriculum or test and for DCP to specify training and technical requirements. This portion of the bill is already cared for in the statutory section referenced above in order to obtain the proper electrical license.

Conclusion:

While AT&T appreciates the goals being advanced by this legislation, we hope you would consider these points when drafting the full statutory language so as not to have businesses and individuals undergo duplicative measures.